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XXII.—*A Contribution to the Ornithology of Asia Minor.*

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THE following notes result from a trip to Asia Minor during the winter of 1875-76 and the ensuing spring. The list given in no way pretends to be exhaustive, and is only intended as a contribution towards the singularly scanty ornithological literature appertaining to this country. The number of species enumerated will probably appear small, considering the geographical position of the peninsula. It must, however, be borne in mind that, with the exception of a month's journey across the interior, the entire time was spent among the Cilician mountains, at elevations of above 3000 feet, and in districts devoid of marshes, and principally consisting of rocks and coniferous woods—conditions very unfavourable to the existence of an avifauna rich in species. Had we collected on the sea-coast-plains during winter, and remained until later in the mountains, a large number of waders, swimmers, and migrants would have been added to the list, as, indeed, previous experience had already shown us.

Altogether 138 species of birds were found in the moun-

tains, and 47 more in the interior, making a total of 185. Of 156 of these species specimens were shot; and of the remainder examples were so closely observed as hardly to admit of any mistake in their identification having been made. Doubtful observations of Eagles, Hawks, &c. have not been included, most birds of those classes being extremely difficult to distinguish with certainty beyond a short distance. In the following rough sketch of the line of march it will be seen that the fauna and flora of the mountain-districts is, on the whole, very European in character, though connected by various well-marked forms with those of countries lying further to the east.

We left Smyrna Dec. 3rd, and after a very stormy passage arrived at Mersina early in the morning of Dec. 7th.

There was still a heavy swell on, which made the landing rather difficult; sometimes, when the south wind blows strong, it is impossible. However, thanks to the kind offices of Mr. Tattarachi (H.B.M. Vice-Consul), we ourselves and our baggage were landed, the customs passed, and horses got ready for the afternoon ride to Tarsus. The distance to that town can, at a sharp pace, be got over in three hours, the road being a good one, passing over a level plain, some of which is devoted to cotton-cultivation, but the greater part is waste land. Among the myrtles, rushes, and low scrub which cover it Francolins (*Francolinus vulgaris*) are reported to be very plentiful; and the large lagoons in the distance, which in old times connected Tarsus with the sea, are said to swarm with wildfowl. On the wayside Eagles, Buzzards, Harriers, Ravens, Hooded Crows, Rooks, various Larks, and a few flights of Plover were the principal birds seen.

From Tarsus excursions were made to the Dunek Tash, the reported tomb of Sardanapalus, and the waterfalls of the Cydnus. About the orange-gardens surrounding the former a few small Warblers were observed; and the neighbourhood of the latter was frequented by Kingfishers (*Ceryle rudis* and *Alcedo ispida*) and Wagtails (*Motacilla melanope* and *M. alba*). Above these celebrated falls most of the water is led off for mill-purposes; the remainder, after a fall of about 15 feet over the conglomerate rock, flows on through a deep narrow channel

of the same formation. The water is certainly remarkably cold, and seems to hold plenty of fish.

A couple of days sufficed to get things in order; and we then left Tarsus for Gozna, a village in the mountains, the "yaila" or summer-quarters of the richer city-people during the pestilential summer heat. The way lies at first parallel to the Mersina road along the plain, but soon turns off into a country made up of a number of small hills, partly rocky and partly earthy. Here the little flats between the hills were gay with pale mauve colchicums, and the slopes were thickly covered with tall heaths, daphne bushes just coming into flower, and myrtles already in bloom. The birds seen on the way were principally Larks (*Calandra* and *Crested*), Chaffinches, and large flocks of Corn-Buntings. A birdcatcher whom we encountered had his net full of live Starlings.

After passing a small stream and a ruined tower the road became rougher, and rapidly ascended into a higher country, over alternate hills and ravines, both well covered with thorny bushes, myrtles, and other evergreens. A few fir trees were scattered about; and occasional glimpses were caught of the sea on one side and the snow-hills on the other. As evening came on, Partridges (*Caccabis chukar*) enlivened the way with their cackling, Jays (*Garrulus krynickii*) screamed, and numbers of Blackbirds and Thrushes fed busily on the sweet aromatic myrtle-berries. These berries are by no means bad, the white and scarcer kind being, as white fruits usually are, much the best. A hunt after a flock of strange-looking birds, which turned out to be Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus xanthopygius*), took up so much time that the last two hours of the way were done by moonlight, which made the scenery of the woods and great rocky ravines, by which we led our horses, look doubly wild and mysterious. Gozna is at a high elevation, and, with the exception of the good stone building kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. Debbas (American Consul at Tarsus), consists of a number of straggling wooden houses. Its position in a draughty gap of the hills is, no doubt, agreeable in summer, but makes it any thing but a pleasant winter residence. Birds seem to be pretty much of this opinion too.

as the species found in the surrounding woods were few and far between. These woods mostly resemble the coverts in the hilly parts of Devonshire. Oak trees, ivy-bound and clematis-hung, form the staple growth. Mixed with these are a good many evergreens and an undergrowth of thorn and bramble, which creeps and twists about a debris of bluish grey limestone patched with rich green moss. Higher up are tall spruces and junipers (*Juniperus drupacea*, Labill.). The fruit of the latter species is abundant and very ornamental, almost as large as a walnut, and covered with a pale blue bloom, like a ripe plum.

These woods are doubtless in summer well stocked with birds. In winter they are principally inhabited by Woodpeckers (*Gecinus viridis*, *Picus medius*, *P. lilfordi*, *P. minor*), Nuthatches (*Sitta cæsia*, *S. krueperi*), and Tits (*Parus major*, *P. lugubris*, *P. cæruleus*, *P. ater*, and *Acredula tephronota*). The last-named species, and also the Gold- and Fire-crested Wrens, were very common in a wood of mixed beech and oak to the east of Gozna. This wood was further remarkable as being of a singularly weird appearance, the rocks and the lichens upon them, the branches and stems of the trees, and the long beard-like mosses which hung from them, being all of an almost unvarying tint of pale grey.

During our stay at Gozna there was plenty of hard frost and several heavy falls of snow, and it was with great difficulty that horse-owners were induced to go further up into the hills. However, the chief of a small village near by did at last get together the necessary men and animals, and we left for Zebil on January 3rd. The distance to that village is, as the Crow flies, short; but the snow which lay on the upper levels, and the crossing of the deep valleys of Der-men deresi (mill valley) and Pambouk deresi (cotton valley), made the tramp rather a long one. Flocks of Hawfinches, Goldfinches, Skylarks, and Pipits were met with on the way; and numbers of Fieldfares and a couple of Eagle Owls were seen in a great forest of firs, through which the path led by a descent of 2400 feet to the bottom of the Pambouk deresi, along which flows the western branch of the Cydnus. The

stream was crossed by a picturesque bridge; near by were some wet rocks covered with Hart's-tongue fern (*Scolopendrium vulgare*)—a very rare species in Asia Minor. A rise of 1700 feet by zigzags up the one practicable cleft in the rocks of the north side brought us near Zebil, in which village much time was destined to be lost through the occurrence of certain casualties, and in fruitless efforts to obtain *Tetraogallus*.

Zebil is the westernmost village on the south side of the Bulgar dagh. Its elevation is about 3500 feet. Close behind it rise the high hills; and in front is the deep ravine and river just alluded to. Though unnamed on the maps, this stream has certainly a larger body of water and quite as long a course as the branch to the eastward, and therefore seems as fully entitled to the classic name of Cydnus. Its origin is reported to be in the wall-like barrier of the Bulgar-dagh at the head of the Chojak deresi. There it is said to spring from the rock in great volume, with a fall of about 20 feet. The deep snow prevented a visit to this spot, which is further remarkable for the remains of an ancient town, as yet apparently unexplored. The natives say that the position of the streets can be clearly traced, and that other ruins exist among the hills.

The river itself bears no name in this district, but is called by those given to the different bends of the ravine through which it flows. These are Chojak deresi, Jehannum deresi, Pambouk deresi, and so on. After entering the plain it is known as the Tersous-tchai. Vertically considered, these ravines are, in their lower depths, clothed with various oaks and evergreen shrubs, which higher up give place to spruces, red firs, white firs, and finally to cedars and junipers. There is but little life in the upper regions—the winter resort of the ibex and a few predatory animals. An occasional Lämmergeyer or Golden Eagle swoops about the crags; the cries of the Peregrine and Raven, or the aerial consultations of a party of Alpine Choughs, are heard now and again. Often nothing breaks the stillness but the tapping of a stray Woodpecker or the notes of Krüper's ubiquitous Nuthatch. The part of the ravine immediately below Zebil is called Jehannum

deresi (Valley of Hell). The only path to the bottom leads by sharp zigzags down to a small mill. The aneroid gave the depth of the descent as nearly 2000 feet. The scenery of the valley itself is beautiful; and it is probably with reference to the return ascent that it has received its name. The change of temperature on reaching the river was great. Above was winter and snow, below warm spring, with butterflies (*Gonepteryx rhamni*, var. *farinosa*) flitting about, and primroses, violets, and snowdrops in full bloom. The stream is about the size of a good Scotch burn, and in some places tumbles wildly about among large boulders, and in others forms long gravelly runs and deep rock-shadowed pools. The water is very clear and of a greenish colour. It absolutely swarms with trout (*Salmo fario*, var. *ausoni*), called by the natives 'Pulu baluk' (spotted fish). They are very good-shaped fish, running about three to the pound, and are of a most unsophisticated nature, taking freely any fly offered to them. A mile below the mill the stream enters an impassable gorge and emerges into the Pambuk deresi. Here the trout are much less numerous, no doubt owing to the presence of numbers of mountain-barbel or 'Jonuz' (*Capoeta syriaca*). Birds are scarce in this region. A few Water-ouzels hurry up and down; troops of Long-tailed Tits disport themselves in the tops of the plane trees, whose green-grey stems are here, contrary to their ordinary habit of growth, tall and slim. Add to the above birds some common Tits, Hedge-Sparrows, Thrushes, a solitary Kingfisher or Sandpiper (*Totanus ochropus*), with a few Wild Ducks, and the winter ornithological resources of the place may be regarded as nearly exhausted.

The country about Zebil between the ravine and the mountains is irregular, and made up of low hills, chiefly formed of conglomerate and limestone. Fossils, especially oysters and echinoderms, are abundant. Deep earthy gullies intersect the ground between the small flats, which are, for the most part, cultivated. Tracts of heath and brushwood afford shelter to numerous Hares (*Lepus syriacus*), Partridges, and a sprinkling of Woodcocks. Most of the large game inhabit the lower and warmer districts. The natives of the Zebil are

all Turks ; and great reputation attaches to a good sportsman. On most Fridays there is a general hunt, in which all the boys and able-bodied men are expected to join. Any one who absents himself is made to ride round the village on a donkey, and has mud put on his face. In aggravated cases his house is pulled down.

We left Zebil February 26th, having up to that time identified eighty species of birds. These, with one or two exceptions, were all either residents or winter visitors.

On leaving Zebil our way lay through hilly ground, past the isolated rock of Nimroun, on the summit of which is an old Armenian castle. The village is at the base of the rock, and is a favourite "yaila" of the people of the plain. Scattered all round are numerous "chardaks" (wooden houses), each standing in its own ground, and surrounded by vineyards, and orchards of plum, cherry, apricot, peach, and walnut trees. Further on, the eastern branch of the Cydnus was crossed. This stream flows through a deep ravine, also called "Jehannum deresi;" but the scenery, though wild and picturesque, is not so grand as that of the other branch described above.

The ascent of the opposite side, through fir-woods, brought us to the village of Gænsin, a small place prettily situated in a well-wooded country, and commanding fine views of the highest peaks of the Bulgar-dagh. Here we remained a few days, without adding much to our collection, until the morning of our departure, when a man arrived with a pair of *Tetraogallus*. He had been out three days on the snow, and was as much delighted at beating all other competitors as with receiving the promised reward.

The birds were at once recognized as not being identical with the species from the Caucasus ; and as we were not then acquainted with the Persian bird (*T. caspius*) we took them to be a new species, and accordingly went on our way with much rejoicing.

The road lay by the celebrated pass of Gulek and the now abandoned castles and earthworks constructed by Ibrahim Pasha for the defence of this important position, which com-

mands the defile of the Taurus known as the Cilician gates (Pylæ Ciliciæ). Cannon and cannon-balls lay half imbedded in the ground, attempts to remove them having failed. The road is here along a valley, the north side of which is bounded by the Bulgar dagh, and the south by the rocky mountains of Anascha. The village of the same name is situated on the north face of the mountain overlooking the valley of the Sihoun. The elevation is about 4000 feet; and the views on all sides are very fine, especially to the north-east, where rise the rocky walls and peaks of the Ala dagh. The latter range is divided from the Anascha dagh by a branch of the Sihoun (*Sarus*). On the opposite side of the valley only firs grow, and it has rather a burnt-up look; but on the Anascha mountains vegetation is much more luxuriant, and almost all the kinds of trees found in the Taurus are there represented. Conifers hold the chief place. The most abundant of these are "kizil cham" (red fir, *Pinus laricio*, Poir.) and the silvery barked "ak cham" (white fir, *P. fenzilii*, Ant. et Key), which takes the place of the former at about 4000 feet elevation. Clumps of "eladin" (spruce, *Abies ciliciæ*) are pretty numerous; and higher up on the steep rocky slopes are the dark silent "kartaran," or cedar-woods. These, together with scattered stems of "ardytch" (*Juniperus excelsa*), form the uppermost growth. This juniper is often of enormous size, some measured at Zebil having, at a yard above the ground, a circumference of more than 18 feet. The wood is of a red-brown colour, highly scented, and splits with great ease and smoothness. Two other smaller junipers are also common—the red-berried "tikian ardytch" (*J. rufescens*) in the lower, and the strong-smelling juniper (*J. fœtidissima*) in the upper elevations.

Next in importance are the oaks, here in great variety, but very difficult to distinguish when devoid of leaves and fruit. At the opening of spring, flowers appear in wonderful profusion. Of *Crocus*, at least five kinds are common; and other beautiful genera, such as *Scilla*, *Bellevalia*, *Muscari*, *Hycinthus*, and *Xiphion*, are well represented.

We remained at Anascha from March 3rd to April 18th,

adding during that time thirty-seven species to our list. Most of these were migrants, the first to arrive being Chats (*Saxicola erythræa* and *S. isabellina*). These were quickly followed by Hoopoes and Thrushes (*Monticola cyanus* and *M. saxatilis*), more Chats (*S. ænanthe* and *S. melanoleuca*), Swifts (*Cypselus melba*), and Warblers (*Sylvia rueppelli* and *S. garula*). Birds were most numerous about the mixed woods, least plentiful at the river-side, which one would have expected to have been the natural highway of immigration.

The next halting-place after leaving Anascha was Giaour-keui, at the base of the Karanfil dagh. This mountain is lofty, narrow, and very precipitous, the direction of its mass being transverse to the general chain of the Ala dagh, of which it forms part.

The week spent at this little village was chiefly devoted to seeking for the nests of Ehrenberg's Redstart (*Ruticilla mesoleuca*), the Red-fronted Serin (*Serinus pusillus*), and the Snow-Partridge (*Tetraogallus caspius*). All of these quests were happily successful; and as fuller details of the character of this part of the country will be given in connexion with the above-mentioned birds, there is no necessity to enlarge upon it here. We left Giaour-keui April 29th, and joined the main track to Kaisariyeh at the bridge of Melimen. From this point the road follows the south bank of the river Korkun, passing by the isolated hill of Masmeno and under the huge walls of the Demir-kasek (iron rod). Heavy mists hung low down the mountain-sides and prevented us seeing the full grandeur of the scenery. The country was here much colder and barer, and the vegetation far less advanced. The low hills on the other side of the river were quite barren; but their local colouring was striking and very beautiful, being a harmony of rich brown-purples and grey-greens.

We diverged from the track to pass the night at Bereketlü (place of blessing), formerly celebrated for its lead-mines. From here the view of the Apisch-kar and the other wild and jagged mountains of the Ala dagh is very fine. The place itself is divided into two parts, Christian and Turkish. It is well-watered, having willow trees and hedges, in which a few

Turtledoves and Cetti's Warblers were observed ; and our house was the abode of hundreds of Rock-Sparrows (*Passer petronius*). On the bare hills near by a good many Horned Larks (*Otocorys penicillata*) were met with. They were evidently breeding here ; but having a long stretch to make that day, and expecting to find them further on, we did not stop to look for nests. As often happens in such cases, we never saw them again.

From Bereketlü to Develü-kara Hissar (the Black Castle of the Place of Camels) is two good days' march. The way is at first over low hills, chiefly barren, but having a few trees and hedges near the villages. Little marmot-like animals (*Spermophilus xanthoprymnus*) swarmed everywhere, and nearly drove our retriever Polo to distraction ; he evidently taking them for a small species of rabbit. Magpies built wherever they could find a place ; and in a small marsh were plenty of Black-headed Wagtails, Red-throated Pipits, some Lapwings, and a few Ruddy Sheldrakes, which waddled about in a most unconcerned fashion. After passing the village of Enehül the country becomes more grassy, and is traversed by long lines of dark igneous rocks, in which breed numbers of Raptorial birds.

We halted at the curious little village of Gördilas, which is built half in and half out of the rocks, and plastered everywhere with "kerpez" (round dung-cakes) for winter fuel. Before leaving in the morning we visited a nest of Sea-Eagles, which was not yet laid in, one of *Buteo ferox*, which contained four deeply incubated eggs, and a Golden Eagle's, in which was a very young nestling and a yelkless egg. The female was knocked over with a broken wing, and made with her claws deep impressions on an incautious member of our party. Small birds, particularly of the Lark and Swallow tribes, swarm in this locality ; and the Crimson-winged Bullfinch (*Erythropsiza sanguinea*) was here first observed. Passing through a small rocky valley frequented by Arabian Chats (*Saxicola erythræa*), one suddenly comes in sight of the Erjdias dagh, the highest mountain of Asia Minor. Its sharp snow-covered cones, and the broad expanse of water and

marshy levels at its base, form a splendid picture. Mount Argæus is isolated from the range of the Antitaurus, and is of volcanic origin. Its height is 12,000 to 13,000 feet *, being above the limit of perpetual snow. There are, however, no glaciers, either on the Argæus or in any part of the country. Develü-kara Hissar is a small place overlooked by a ruined castle. It would make a capital collecting-station, being surrounded by large gardens, and close to the lake and the rocky steppe country.

Beyond the town the track passes at first near the water over a monotonous dead level, which is thickly covered with grass and stubby plants. Red-backed and Lesser Shrikes were common here. Myriads of Calandra and Short-toed Larks sprung up at every step ; and flocks of Orange-legged Hobbies hovered overhead or pitched on the little hillocks which dotted the plain. A few hills have to be crossed before reaching Inje-su (Narrow Water). This town fills up a rift in the volcanic rock, and must in summer be a perfect furnace. In the beginning of May it was more like an oven than any thing else. From Inje-su to Kaisariyeh the way lies over low lava-covered hills, and sometimes by the side of a large marsh. Here Ducks, Pratincoles (*Glareola pratincola*), and a species of Tern, probably *Sterna nigra*, were seen. There were also a few Stork's nests, in the foundations of which numbers of Spanish Sparrows were building. This marshy lake is principally fed by a number of large springs, which rise round its margin.

Kaisariyeh, the ancient Cæsarea Mazaca, is situated upon the level ground to the north of Mount Argæus. It contains many mosques, very well-built bazaars, and a large battle-mented castle, the inside of which is filled up with houses. Just outside the town are some curious ruins ; and the feet of the hills, a couple of miles off, are covered with gardens containing vines, apricot-, pear-, and apple-trees, and a sweet-smelling shrub, from the red berries of which a tamarind-tasted sherbet is made. They are also well-stocked with

* The mean of Hamilton's and Tchihatcheff's measurements is 12,666 feet.

birds, especially with Buntings (*Emberiza melanocephala* and *E. hortulana*) and Warblers (*Sylvia orphea* and *Cossypha gutturalis*). A fishing-excursion to the small lake of Kabat-geul resulted in the capture of sundry pike with dark purple fins and a lot of ordinary roach. Numbers of snakes were swimming about; and frogs and tortoises were in legions. Specimens of Great Sedge-Warblers, Spotted Flycatchers, and Penduline Tits were the additions to our collection.

We left Kaisariyeh May 8th, and made a direct march north to Samsoun, on the Black Sea. At Erkelet and Kemer, the first villages on the way, flocks of Bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*) made their appearance, and a few Woodpeckers were seen, which we could neither shoot nor identify. They seemed, from their size, to be *Picus lilfordi*; but the locality is an unlikely one for that species. Here were a few vineyards and orchards, and by the wayside grew patches of wild yellow roses and jasmines; but as the valley of the Kizil Irmak (Red River) was neared the country became more barren. The river is dirty and rapid, and about eighty yards wide where it is crossed by the long stone bridge, at the north end of which is a singular-looking village. The houses are mostly excavated in the rocks; and it is very aptly called by the Turks "Chock-guez" (many eyes).

Beyond this river the country as far as Aladja is, for the most part, a dreary undulating plateau, covered with grass and stones. Here and there are miserable villages, with a little cultivation and a few small trees about them; and on the better pasture-lands one meets with large encampments of black Kurdish tents.

In other districts there are plenty of flowers, especially in narrow defiles, where there is some shade from the fierce sun. In such places grow quantities of beautiful short-stalked irises of two colours (dull buff and maroon), gladioli, wild scentless mignonnette, a pale slate-coloured flax, large patches of convulvulus, the rare *Ixiolirion montanum*, and many other plants. Butterflies are very numerous, most of the European genera being well represented by only slightly varying forms.

The stock birds are the Isabelline Chat and Larks (Short-toed, Crested, and Calandra). Jackdaws live about the villages; and numbers of Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles arenarius*) cut the air with their sharp swift wings. A few of their nests were taken, all containing the usual complement of three eggs. The way was further enlivened by the plundering of a Bustard's nest (*Otis tarda*) and those of certain Eagles, chiefly *Aquila imperialis*. After passing the wretched village of Aladja, the character of the landscape changes; the hills are higher, and are covered with a thick growth of oak-scrub. At our halting-place of Baba Eyoub-tekessi there was capital ground for Warblers; and after a shower the hills resounded with the songs of Nightingales, Barred and Orphean Warblers, and Robin Chats, all performers of the first order.

From here to the old Mussulman town of Tchorum numbers of Rollers, Bee-eaters, and Rosy Pastors were met with.

Tchorum was reached May 15th. Hitherto the weather had been fine and very warm. Frequent showers now fell, which soon increased to tremendous thunderstorms, accompanied by hailstones and heavy rains. This state of things, which lasted all the way to the coast, made travelling difficult and roadside collecting impracticable. Between Tchorum and Mersiwan we crossed hills covered with oaks, hazels, *Syringa*, barberry, roses (pink, yellow, and white), and hawthorn in full bloom.

The latter town is the ancient Phasemon. It is prettily situated at the base of a range of mountains, and surrounded by large gardens and fine old walnut-trees. Beyond it the mud had made the roads so difficult that our guides diverged from the ordinary path and, by long detours over the hills, brought us to the *watering-place* of Kausa. Here half a dozen enormous khans, crowded with a motley assemblage, were grouped round the baths. These hot springs, which were well known to the ancients, are said to be very effectual in curing many complaints. They are protected by domed buildings, are large in volume, and have a temperature of 125° Fahr. Leaving the hubbub and dirt of Kausa behind us with much pleasure, we rode to the prettily situated khan of Ak Soo

deresi (white-water valley). The country is covered with copses ; and numerous Circassian villages are scattered about. Cirl Buntings and Rosy Finches (*Carpodacus erythrinus*) were for the first time met with, and a good many birds of prey seen.

On the descent to the Black Sea, which occupied two days more, our road lay through large forests, principally composed of beech and oak, with an undergrowth of the golden-flowered *Azalea pontica*. Samsoun was reached on May 22nd. Our intention had been to stop here and collect ; but finding that little or nothing was to be done in that way, we left for Constantinople by the first steamer.

Before passing to the next part of this paper we must acknowledge the hospitality and courtesy received from all races and classes, especially from the mountain-tribes of Turks and Yorouks, among whom most of our time was passed. Nothing could exceed the unvarying kindness of Mr. Tatarachi, H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Mersina, to whom we take this opportunity of tendering our most hearty thanks, as also to Mr. Dresser and to Mr. Baker of Kew, for the aid they have rendered us in naming our birds and plants. We would further beg leave to recommend to the ornithological world our assistant, Mr. William Pearse, of Haskeui, Constantinople, who accompanied us, and to whose diligence and care the good preservation of our collection is entirely due.

[To be continued.]

XXIII.—*Recent Observations on the Parrots of the Genus Eclectus.* By W. A. FORBES, F.Z.S.

THE large red and green Parrots forming the genus *Eclectus* of Wagler have long been well known to naturalists, who have, until recently, entertained no sort of doubt that the red species were perfectly distinct from the green ones. So much was this the case, that a subgenus, denominated *Polychlorus* in 1857 by Sclater*, has been formed for the reception of the green species, the red ones being retained under *Eclectus*

* P. Z. S. 1857, p. 226.